

San Joaquin River Management Program

Goals, Principles and Actions

April 2001

Since 1990, the San Joaquin River Management Program has served as a forum for identifying, discussing, planning and supporting projects and programs that address water quality, water supply, flood protection, fisheries, recreation and wildlife on the San Joaquin River system. In 1995, the SJRMP Plan was completed. This plan identifies nearly 80 consensus-based actions that, if implemented, will benefit the San Joaquin River system and its many users. Recent funding and cooperative efforts like the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the Parks and Water Bonds (Propositions 12 and 13) have opened up new horizons and opportunities to implement these SJRMP actions along with innovative new projects that have been identified since 1995.

SJRMP is in a position to provide a regional forum in the San Joaquin Basin for local agencies, environmental groups; agriculture, business, industry, recreation, and other interests and landowners to work directly with State and federal agencies to develop ideas and to meet these challenges. The following goals, principles, and actions will enable SJRMP to perform this role.

Goals

- Provide a regional, ecosystem-wide perspective for critical issues in the San Joaquin River watershed without the limitations imposed by political boundaries.
- Provide a regional grassroots forum for local governments, environmental organizations; agriculture, business, industry and recreation interests, water rights holders, landowners, and other groups.
- Facilitate and promote planning, funding and implementation of projects and concepts consistent with SJRMP principles.

Principles

- Adhere to the original SJRMP mandate to use a consensus approach to assure that impacts resulting from actions are acceptable to other interests.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Give full consideration to all interested parties' concerns.
- Maintain an open, credible, flexible and collaborative process.
- Generate buy-in for implementation of projects.
- Encourage continued local involvement.

Actions

Immediate

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding that identifies the roles of participants (leave open for adding signatures).
- Develop process to make decisions and set priorities.
- Identify existing functional groups.

Short Term

- Hire and fund a non-agency chair or coordinator.
- Identify watershed needs.
- Obtain authority to enter into contracts, receive funds, etc.
- Develop annual and five-year work plans.

Ongoing

- Establish and maintain a clearinghouse for projects.
- Catalog what has been accomplished and the status of projects and programs.
- Establish and maintain a library of relevant documents.
- Provide permitting and technical assistance to local project proponents.
- Provide balanced SJR Basin education and information.
- Promote dissemination and generation of new and accurate scientific data.

Long Term

- Establish topic or area based subcommittees as appropriate.